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Chastain et al.

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(54) **COAXIAL CABLE CONNECTOR WITH CONTINUITY BUS**

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(22) Filed: **Apr. 4, 2014**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
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H01R 103/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***H01R 9/0512*** (2013.01); ***H01R 9/0521*** (2013.01); *H01R 2103/00* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01R 17/12; H01R 13/193
USPC 439/578, 675, 352, 268
See application file for complete search history.

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Ocean Law; Paul D. Chancellor

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A coaxial cable connector including a continuity bus extending a ground circuit between a coaxial cable outer conductor and a coaxial cable connector part such as a coaxial cable connector fastener.

21 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets

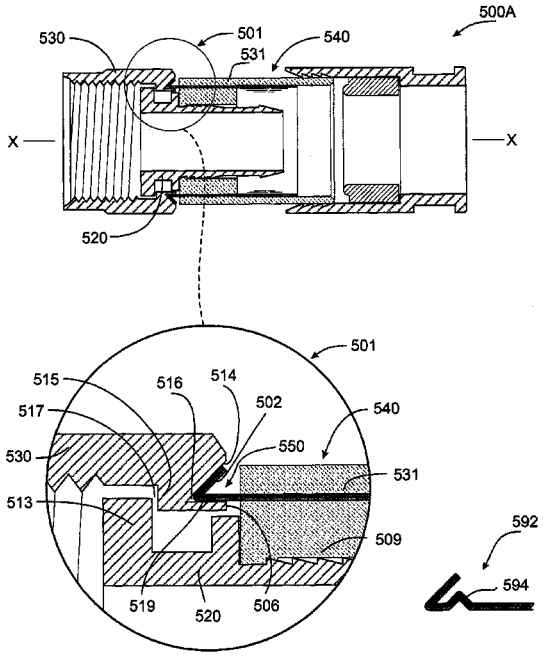


FIG. 1A

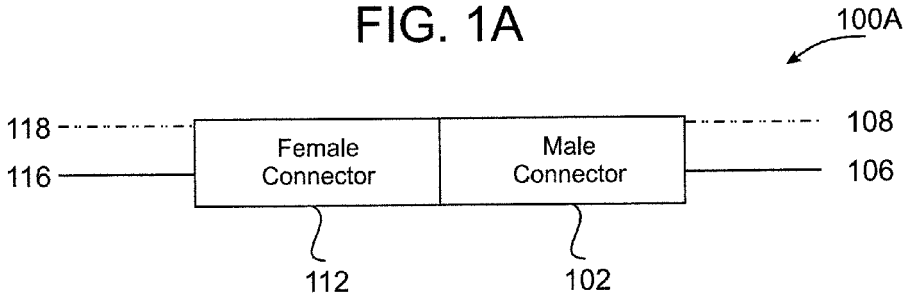


FIG. 1B

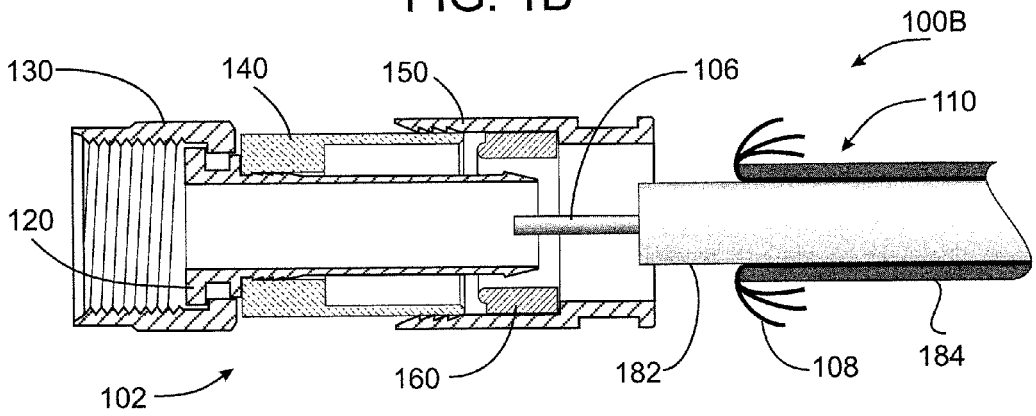


FIG. 1C

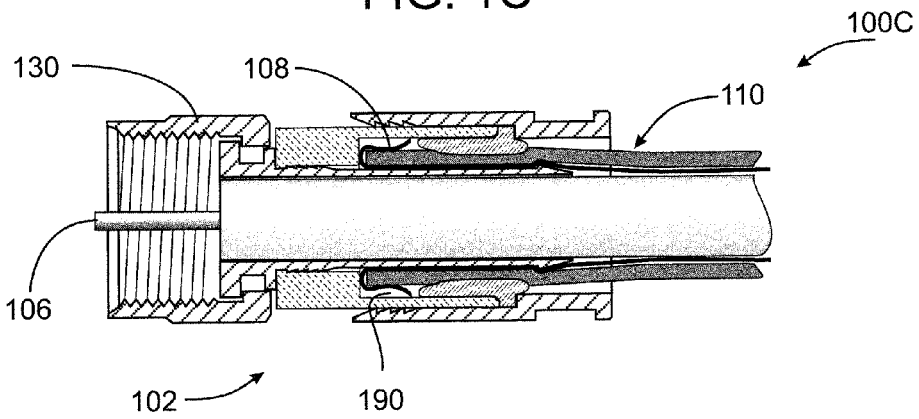
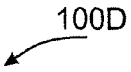


FIG. 1D



PART	Path 1	Path 2	Path 3
1. Coaxial Cable Outer Conductor	X	X	X
2. Continuity Bus			X
3. Post	X	X	
4. Fastener	X		X
5. Port	X	X	X

FIG. 2A

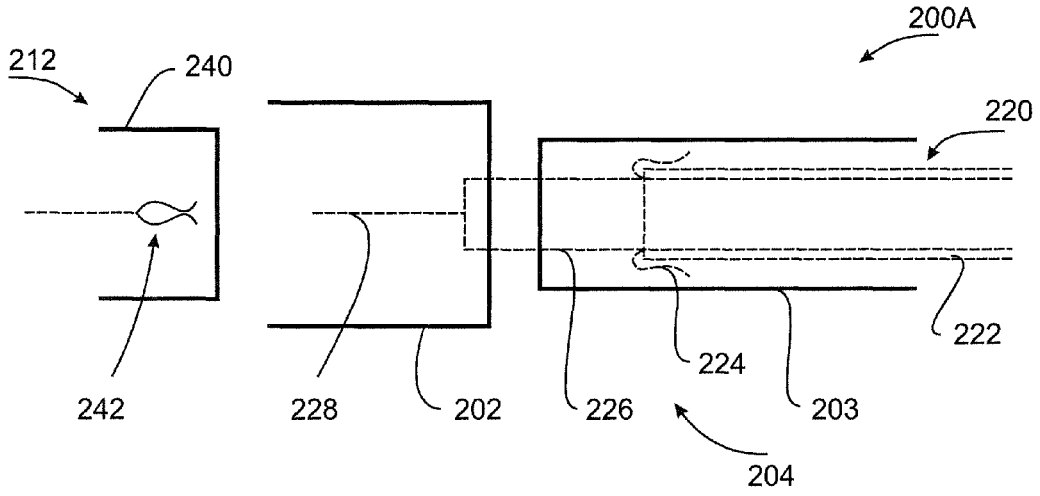
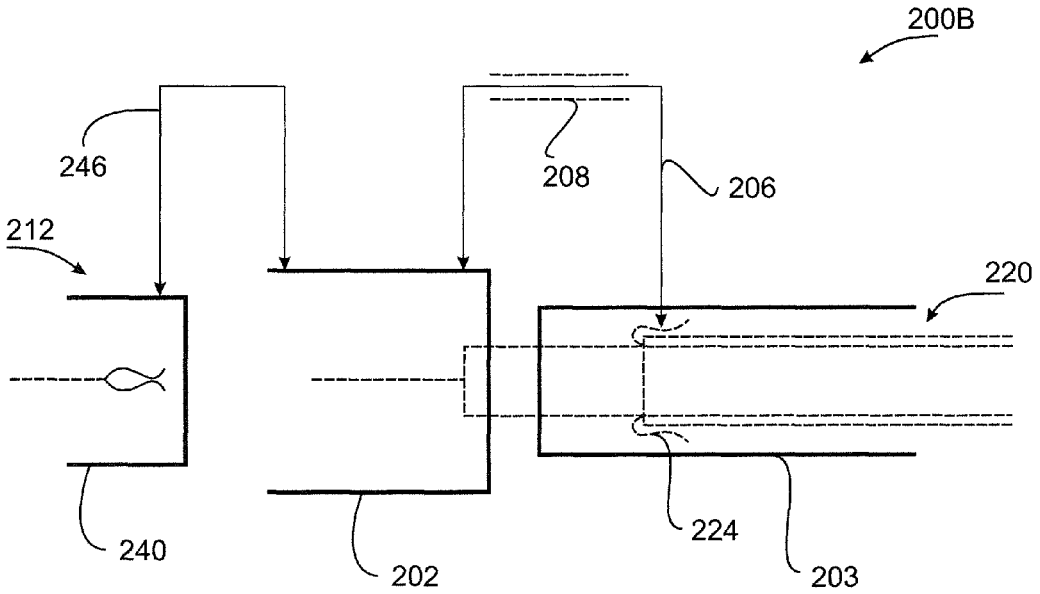

200A
212
240
220
222
224
242
228
202
226
203
204

FIG. 2B


200B
246
208
206
212
220
240
202
224
203

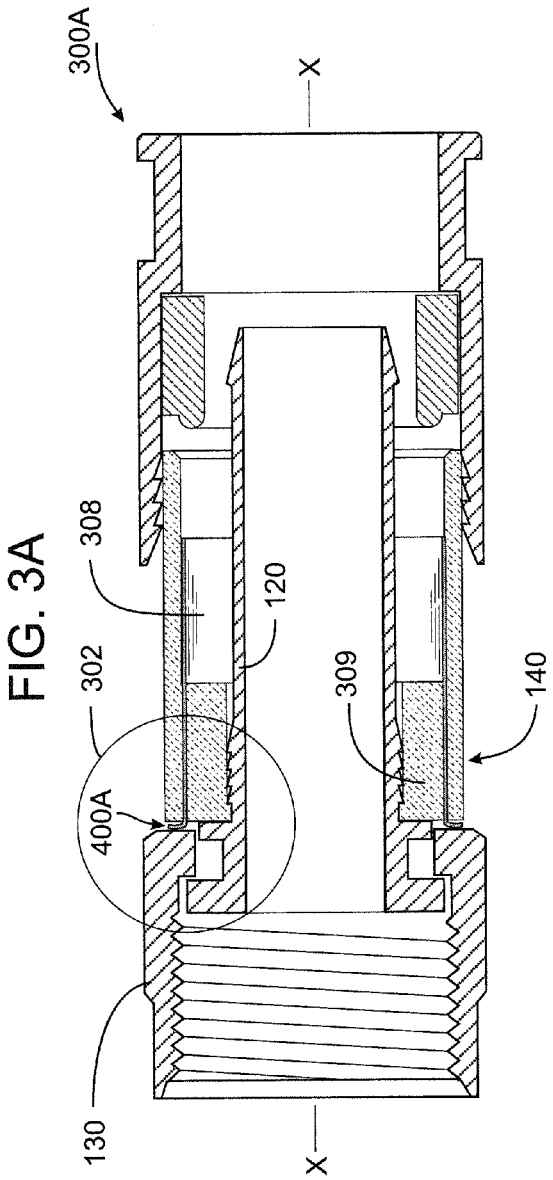


FIG. 3A

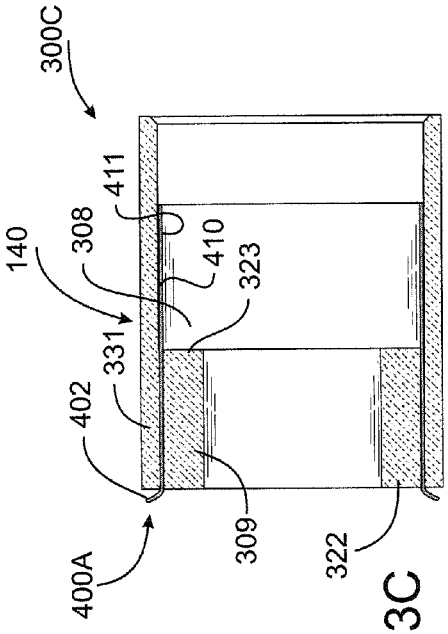


FIG. 3C

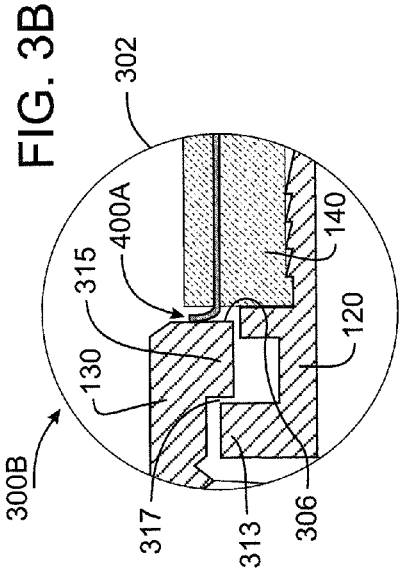


FIG. 3B

FIG. 4A

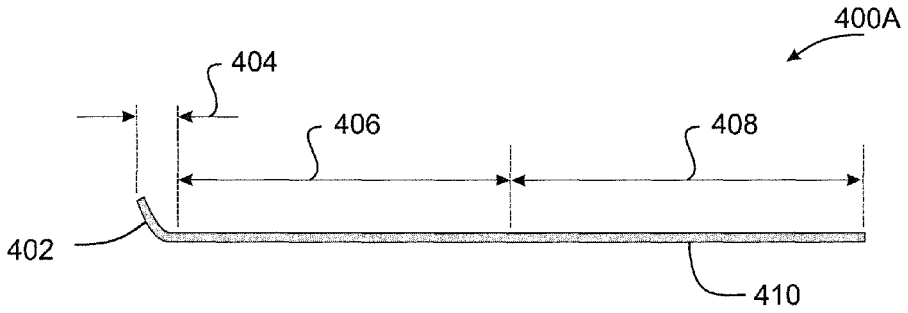


FIG. 4B FIG. 4C FIG. 4D

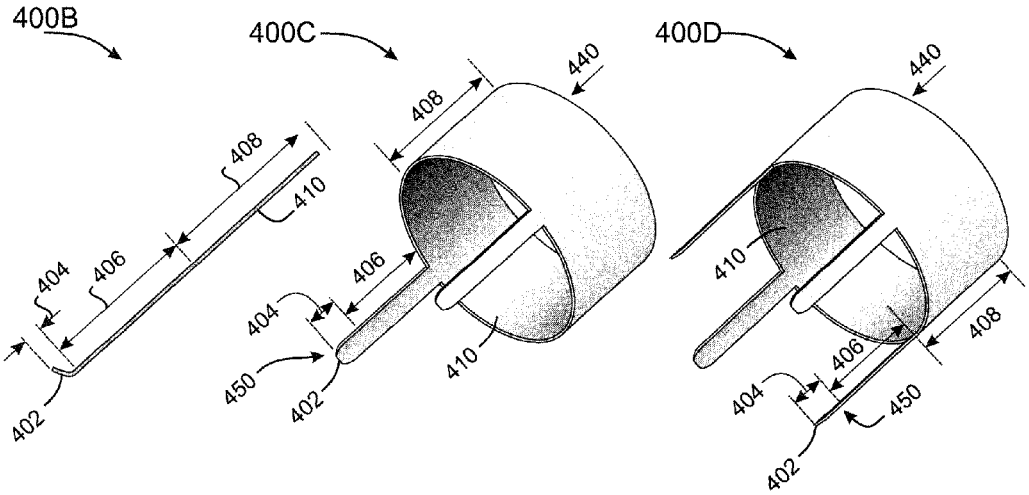


FIG. 5A

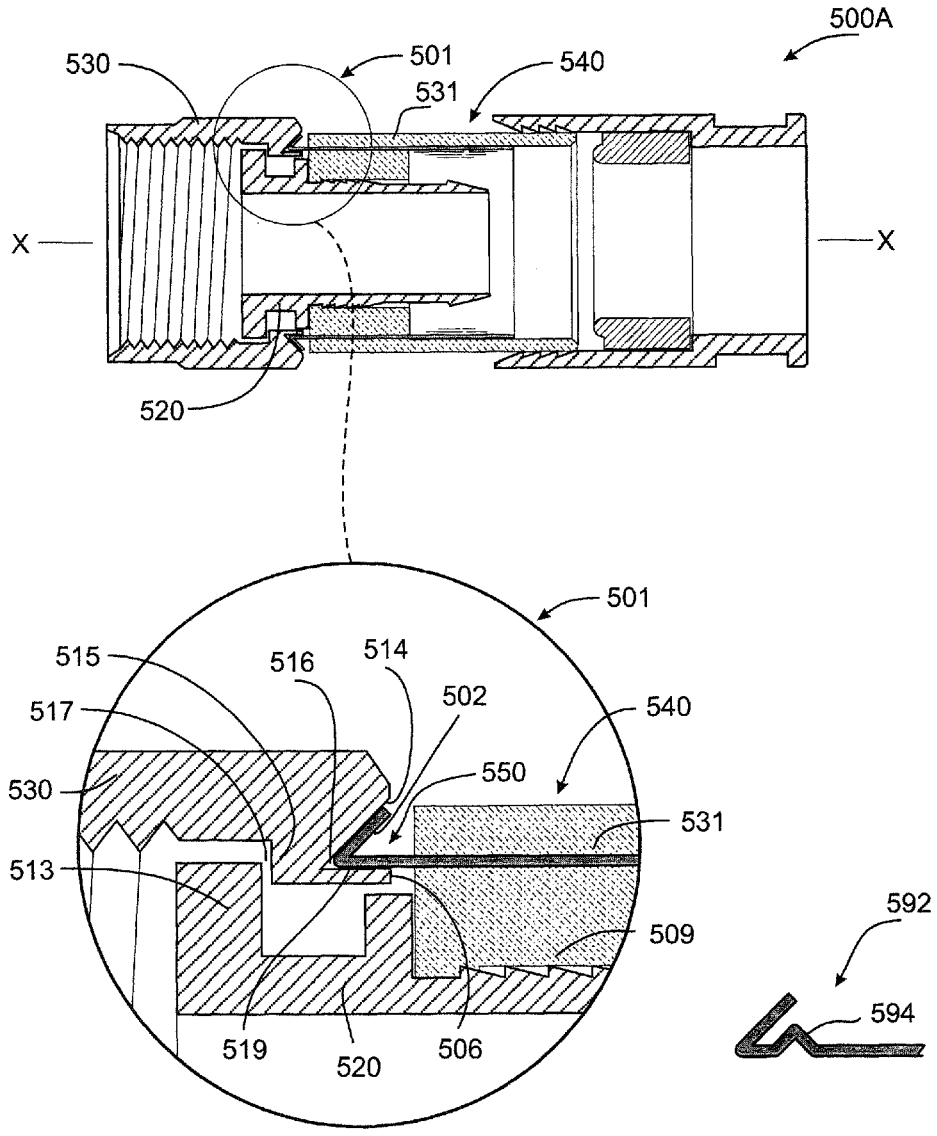

500A
530
501
540
531
X
X
520
501
515
516
514
517
502
540
530
550
531
513
509
519
520
506
592
594

FIG. 5B

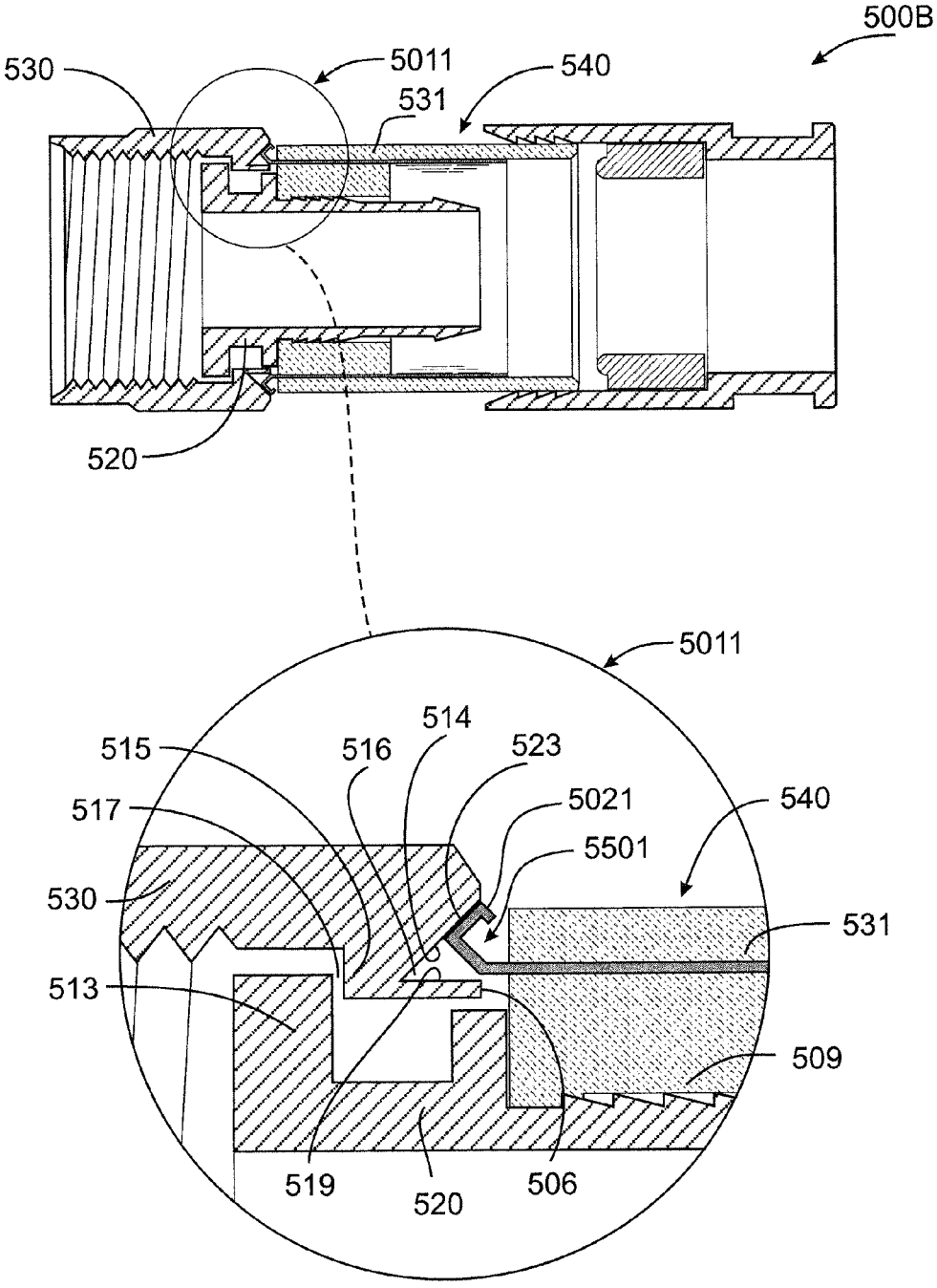

500B
530
5011
531
540
520
5011
515
516
514
523
517
5021
540
5501
530
531
513
509
519
520
506

FIG. 5C

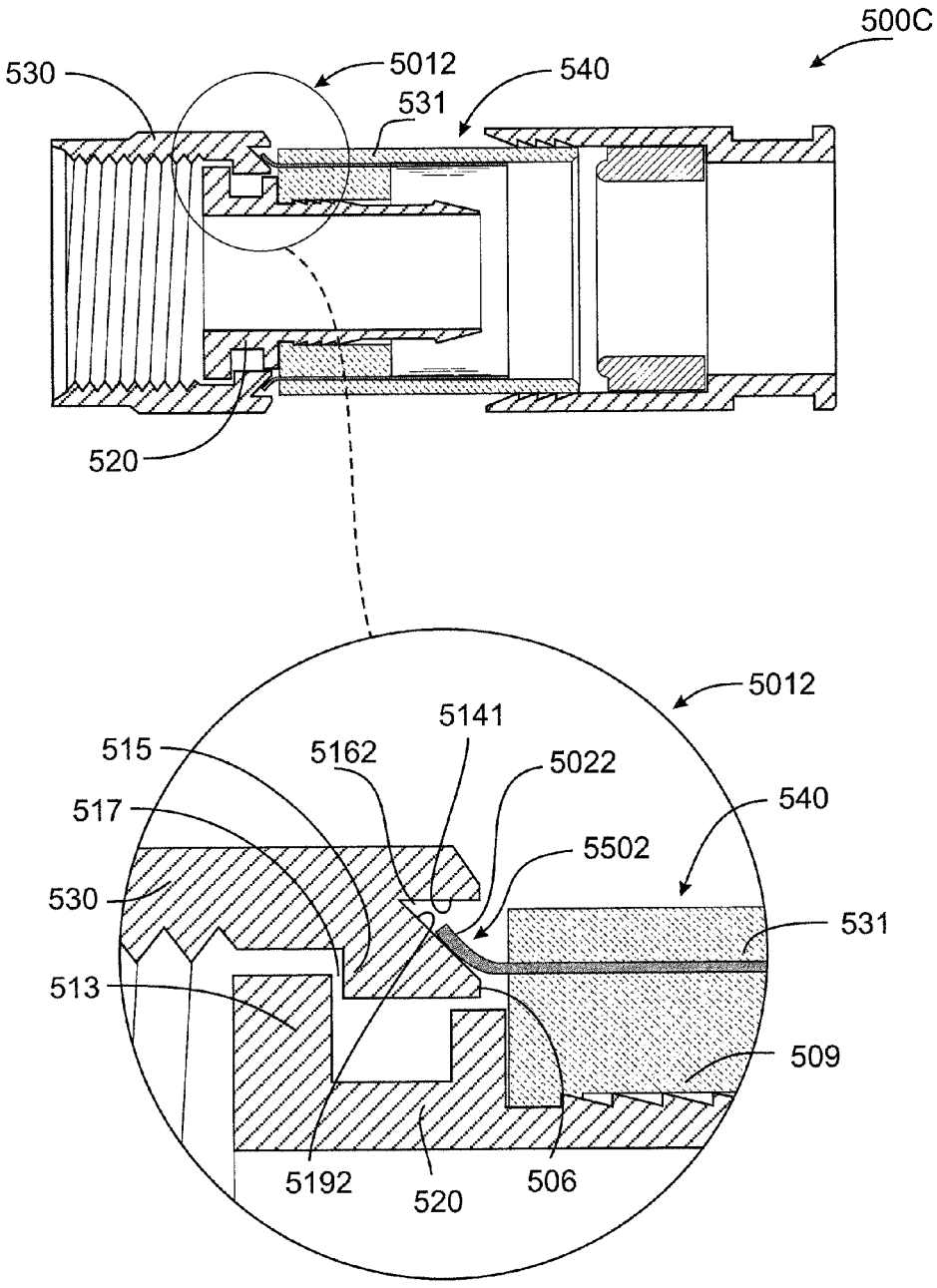

500C
530
5012
540
531
520
5012
5141
515
5162
5022
517
540
5502
530
531
513
509
5192
520
506

FIG. 5D

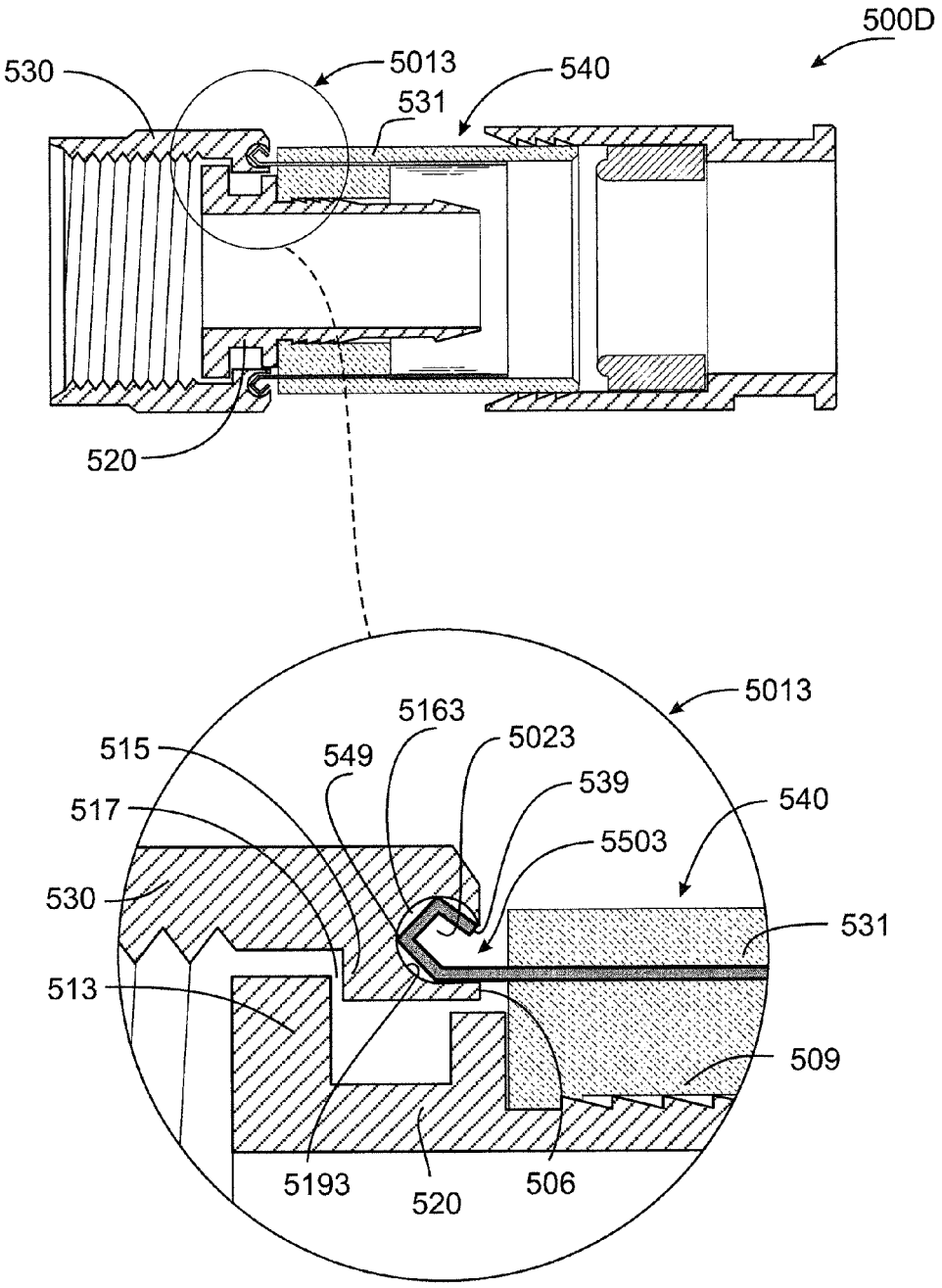

500D
530
5013
540
531
520
5013
5163
515
549
5023
539
540
517
5503
530
531
513
509
5193
520
506

FIG. 6A

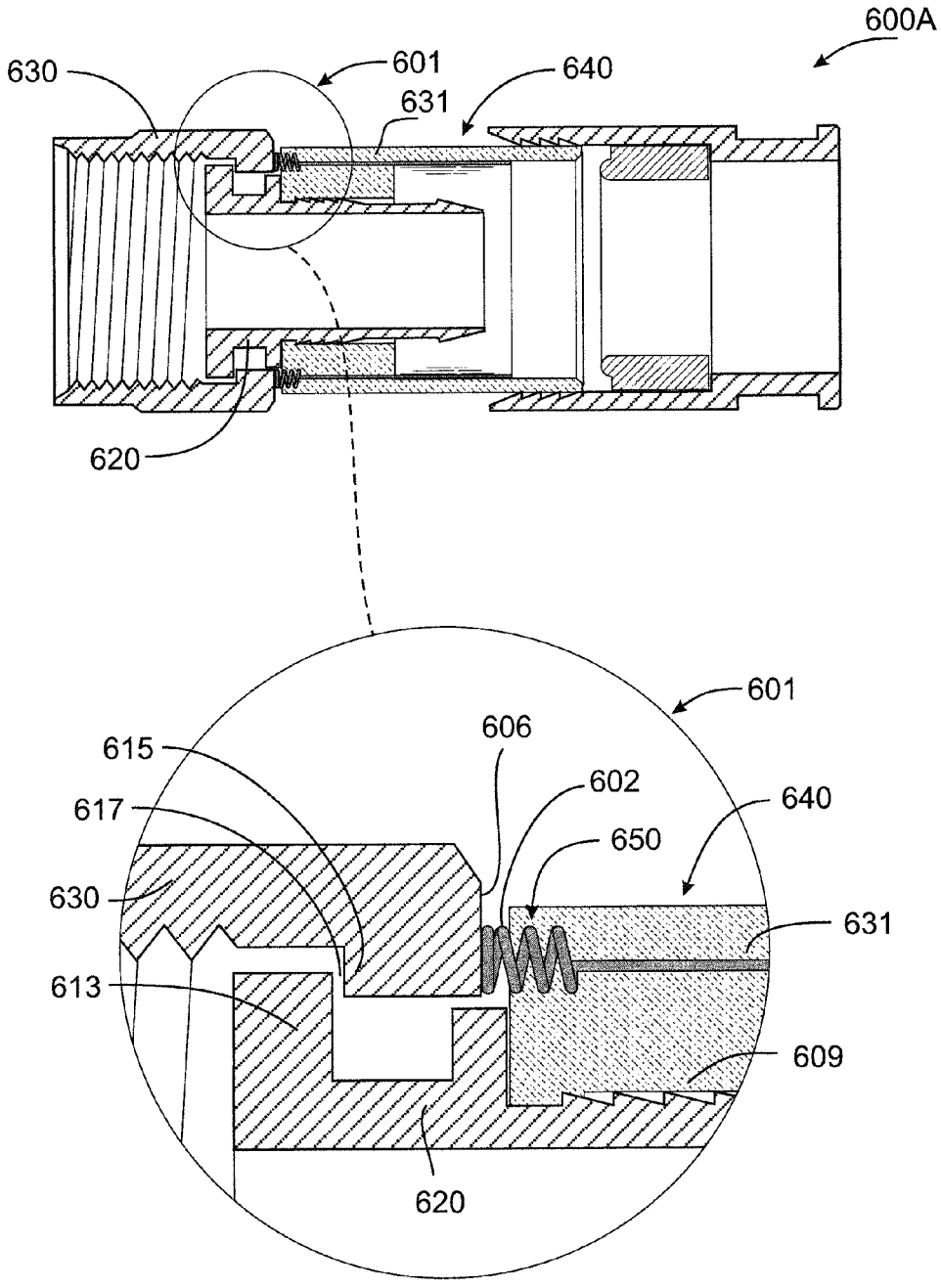

600A
630
601
631
640
620
601
615
606
617
602
640
650
630
631
613
609
620

FIG. 6B

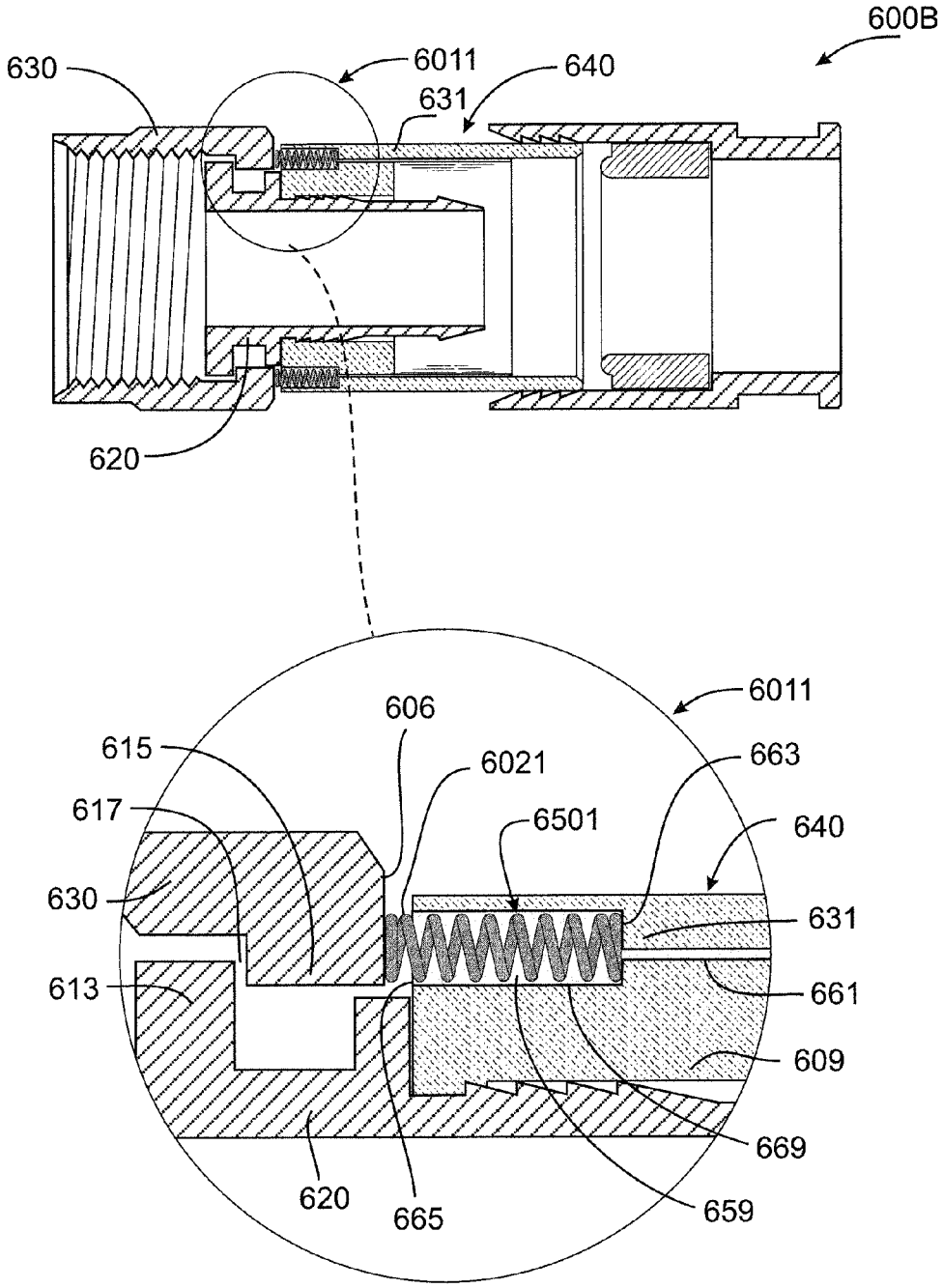

600B
630
6011
640
631
620
6011
606
615
6021
663
617
6501
640
630
631
613
661
609
669
620
665
659

FIG. 6C

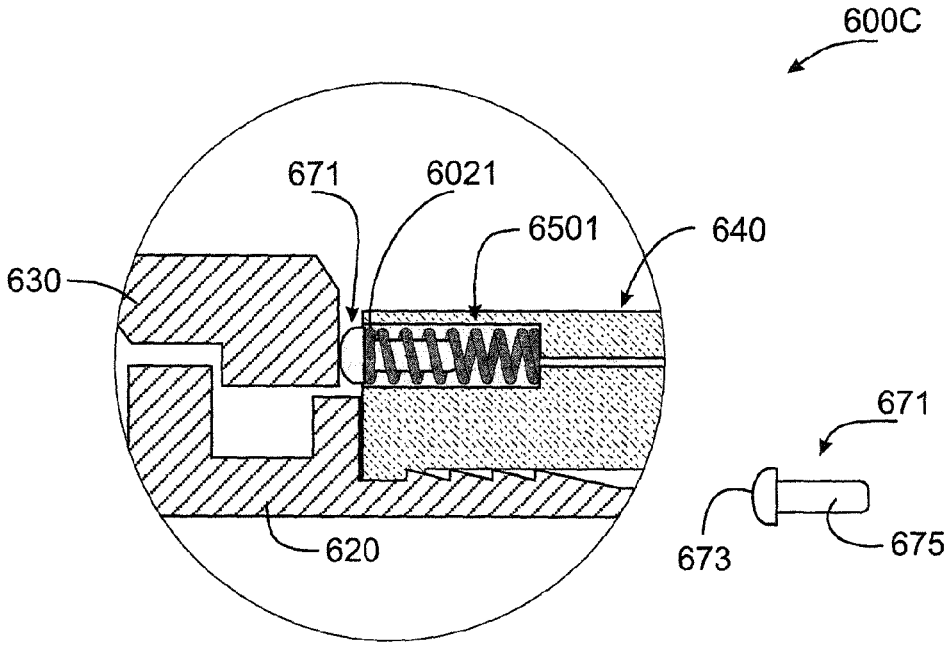

600C
671
6021
6501
640
630
671
620
673
675

FIG. 6D

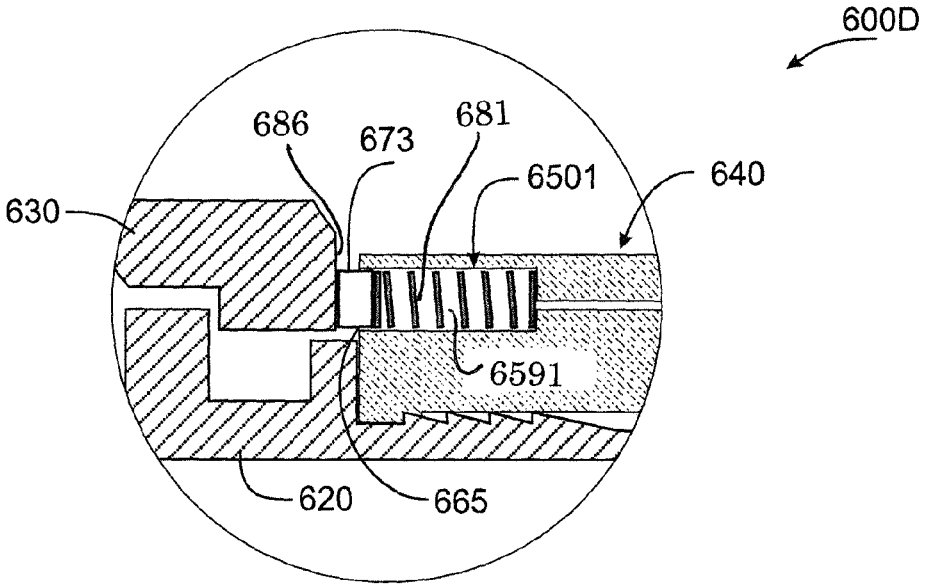

600D
686
673
681
6501
640
630
6591
620
665

FIG. 7A

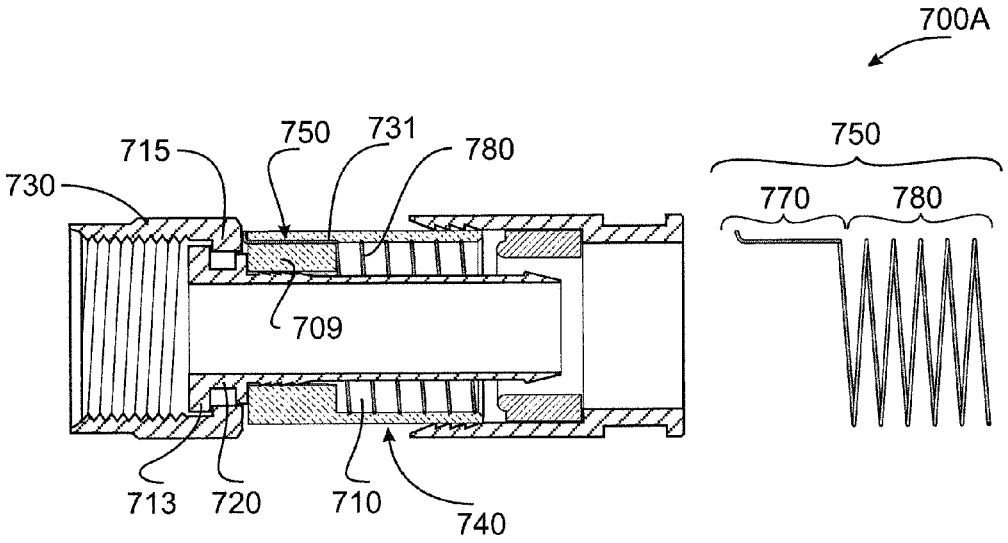

700A
715
750
731
780
730
709
713
720
710
740
750
770
780

FIG. 7B

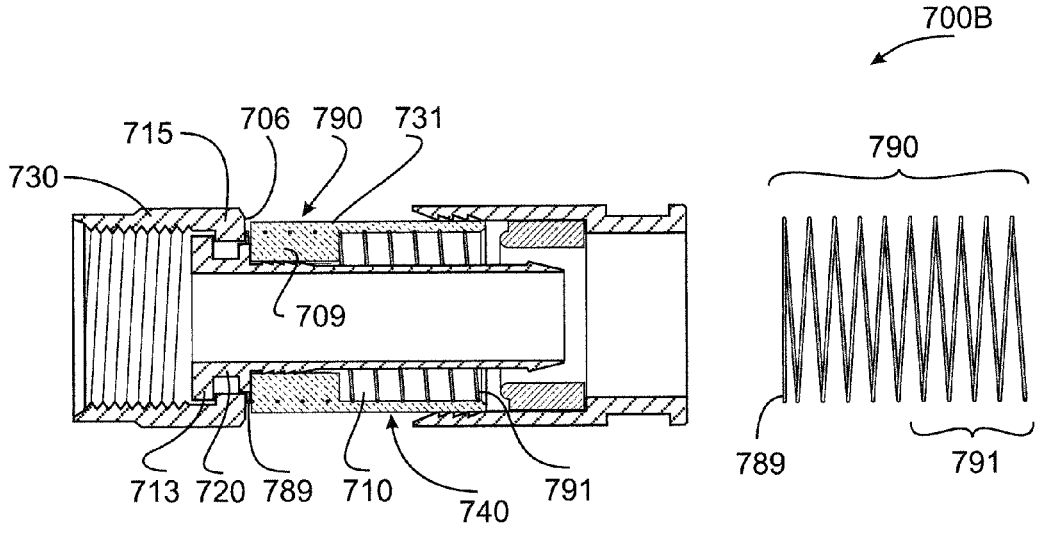
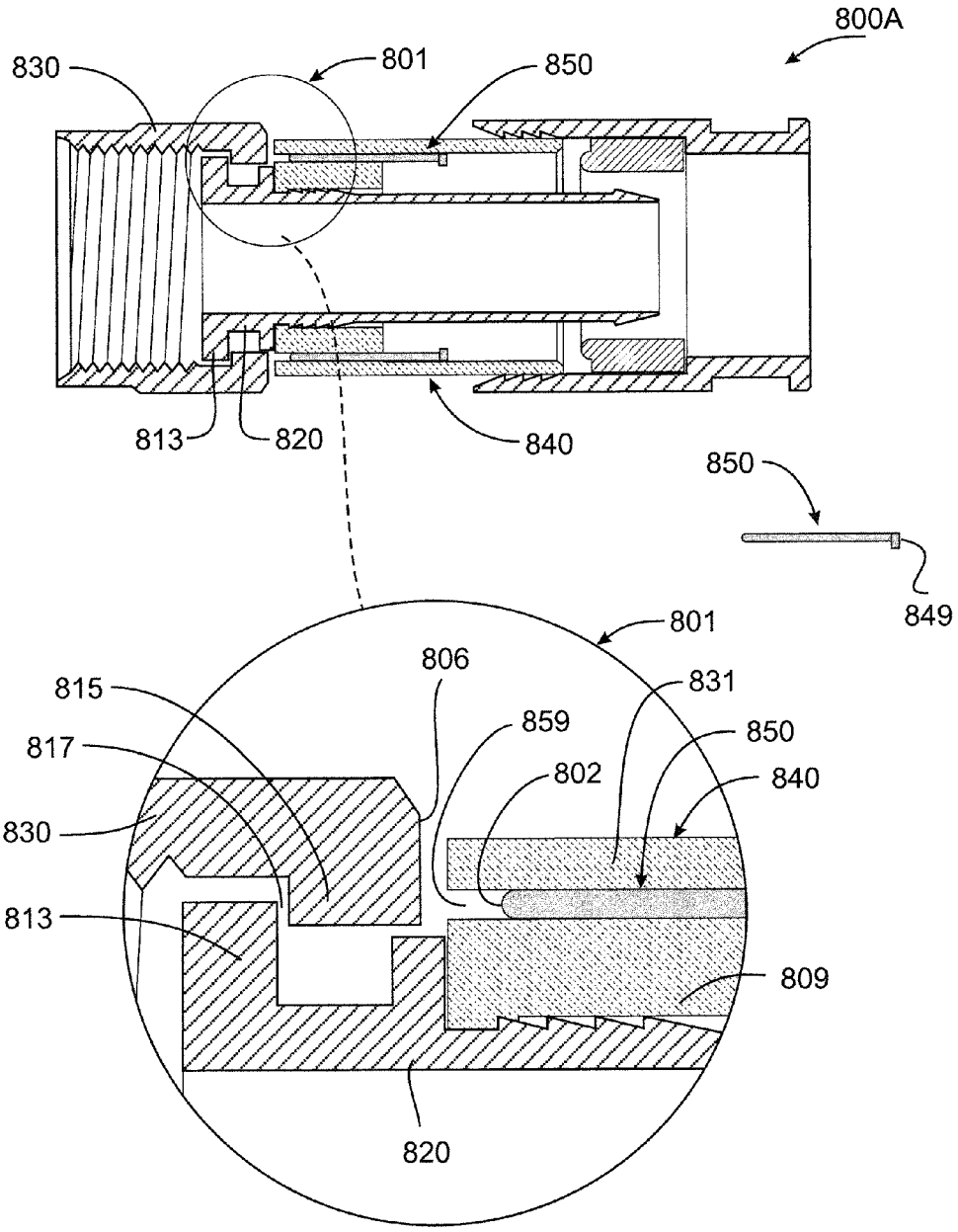

700B
715
706
790
731
730
709
713
720
789
710
740
791
790
789
791

FIG. 8A


800A
830
801
850
813
820
840
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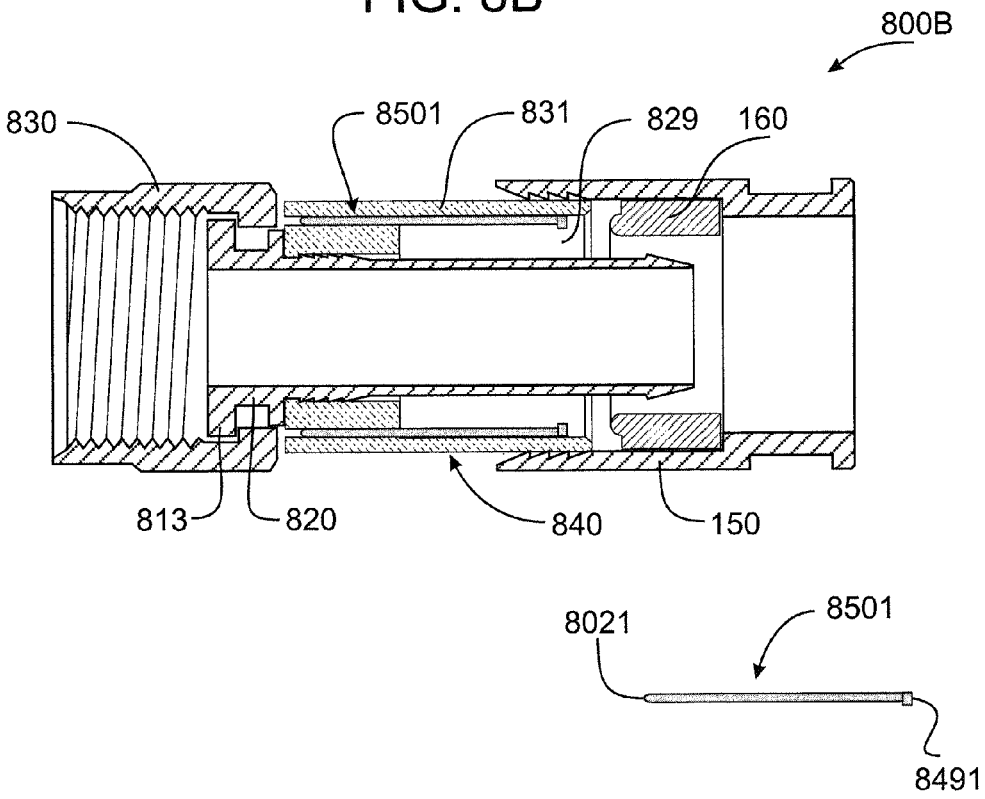
849
801
806
815
831
859
817
850
802
840
830
813
809
820

FIG. 8B



COAXIAL CABLE CONNECTOR WITH CONTINUITY BUS

PRIORITY CLAIM AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/822,834 filed May 13, 2013 and entitled COAXIAL CABLE CONNECTOR WITH CONTINUITY BUS which is incorporated herein in its entirety and for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Coaxial cable connectors are well-known in various applications including those of the satellite and cable television industry. Coaxial cable connectors including F-Type connectors used in consumer applications such as cable and satellite cable connectors are a source of service calls when service is interrupted by lost and/or intermittent coaxial cable connections typically involving a junction between a male F-type connector terminating a coaxial cable and a female F-type port located on related equipment.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to the electromechanical arts. In particular, an electrical connector incorporates a center conductor and a ground conductor surrounding the center conductor.

DISCUSSION OF THE RELATED ART

Coaxial cable connectors include variants designed to improve electrical continuity under extenuating circumstances. These continuity improving connectors have generally utilized assemblies of bare electrical conductors in a multipart ground circuit interconnecting the outer conductor of a coaxial cable and the grounded casing of a female F-type port.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the continuity bus of the present invention provide an electrical ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and an electrically conducting fastener of the connector such that the connector ground circuit tends to be maintained during events including movement of the connector fastener relative to the connector body and failure to properly tighten the connector fastener to a female port.

The present invention provides a coaxial connector with a continuity bus. Embodiments provide a continuity bus embedded in a peripheral non-conductive connector body wall such as a cylindrical body wall.

In an embodiment, a coaxial cable connector comprises: a tubular body defining a cylindrical wall section made from an insulating material; the tubular body for receiving a prepared end of a coaxial cable with a central signal conductor spaced apart from an exposed ground conductor; a fastener incorporating an electrically conductive material, the fastener rotatably coupled to the tubular body; an elongated continuity bus having a first contact portion operable to electrically contact the exposed ground conductor and a second contact portion operable to rub the rotatable fastener; and, at least a portion of the continuity bus embedded in the wall section of the tubular body.

In another embodiment, the above connector's electrical contact between the fastener and the continuity bus second contact portion is maintained if the fastener is moved away from the body.

And in yet another embodiment, the above connector's electrical contact between the fastener and the continuity bus second contact portion is maintained if the fastener is moved toward the body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is described with reference to the accompanying figures. These figures, incorporated herein and forming part of the specification, illustrate the present invention and, together with the description, further serve to explain the principles of the invention and to enable a person skilled in the relevant art to make and use the invention.

FIGS. **1**A-C show coaxial cable connectors and mated coaxial cable connectors.

FIG. **1**D shows electrical grounding paths in tabular format.

FIG. **2**A shows a schematic diagram of a coaxial cable connector.

FIG. **2**B shows a schematic diagram of a coaxial cable connector including a continuity bus.

FIGS. **3**A-**3**C show cross-sectional views of a coaxial cable connector with a continuity bus.

FIG. **4**A shows a schematic view of a continuity bus.

FIGS. **4**B-**4**D show perspective views of continuity bus embodiments.

FIGS. **5**A-**5**D and **6**A-**6**D show cross-sectional views of continuity bus fastener contact configurations.

FIGS. **7**A-B show cross-sectional views of continuity bus coaxial cable outer conductor contact configurations.

FIGS. **8**A-B show cross-sectional views of coaxial cable connectors having movable continuity busses.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The disclosure provided in the following pages describes examples of some embodiments of the invention. The designs, figures, and descriptions are non-limiting examples of certain embodiments of the invention. For example, other embodiments of the disclosed device may or may not include the features described herein. Moreover, disclosed advantages and benefits may apply to only certain embodiments of the invention and should not be used to limit the disclosed inventions.

FIG. **1**A shows a schematic of mated male **102** and female **112** coaxial cable connectors such as mated F-type connectors **100**A. The mated connectors provide electrical continuity between respective central conductors **106**, **116** and electrical continuity between respective outer conductors **108**, **118**. The outer conductors are commonly referred to as ground conductors.

FIG. **1**B shows an F-type male connector **102** before its attachment to a prepared end of a partially inserted coaxial cable **110** **100**B. The connector shown includes a fastener **130** coaxially arranged with a tubular body **140**. The fastener is rotatable with respect to the tubular body. For example, embodiments include a post **120** rotatably coupling the fastener and the body. Further, some embodiments include a wedge part **160** movable with a rear shell **150** to fix the cable to the connector.

The coaxial cable **110** includes a dielectric **182** surrounding the central conductor. The outer conductor **108** surrounds the dielectric and an outer insulating jacket **184** envelops the dielectric and conductors.

FIG. **1**C shows an F-type male connector **102** after its attachment to the prepared end of the fully inserted coaxial cable **110** **100**C. As seen here, the outer conductor is positioned in an annular space **190** between the body **140** and the post **120**, and the rear shell **150** is moved forward, pushing the wedge part **160** into an annular space between the coaxial cable and the body so as to fix the cable to the connector.

FIG. **1**D shows three ground paths through the connector of FIG. **1**C **100**D. These ground paths do not rely on an electrically conductive body, a useful feature when the body is made from non-conducting materials such as non-conducting plastics.

Path 1 is a ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and a female port ground. See for example the coaxial cable outer conductor **108** and female port ground **118**. As shown, the ground path passes through a post (e.g. post **120**) and through a fastener (e.g. fastener **130**).

Path 2 is a ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and a female port ground. See for example the coaxial cable outer conductor **108** and female port ground **118**. As shown, the ground path passes through a post (e.g. post **120**).

Path 3 is a ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and a female port ground. See for example the coaxial cable outer conductor **108** and female port ground **118**. As shown, the ground path passes through a continuity bus (see below) and through a fastener (e.g. fastener **130**).

FIG. **2**A shows a schematic of adjacent coaxial cable connectors **200**A. A male coaxial connector such as an F-type connector **204** is adjacent to a female coaxial cable connector **212**. As shown, the female coaxial connector includes a central signal contact **242** for contacting the center conductor **228** of a coaxial cable **220**. The cable center conductor is surrounded by a dielectric **226** while an insulating jacket **222** covers the outer conductor **224**.

As shown, the cable **220** is inserted through a male connector body **203**. The body is made from a material that is not electrically conductive. The male connector includes a fastener **202** for engaging the female port such as the female connector ground **240** and, in various embodiments the fastener and the body are rotatably engaged, for example by a post (not shown).

FIG. **2**B shows a schematic of a connector that incorporates a continuity bus **200**B. A ground path between the coaxial cable **220** outer conductor **224** and the female connector **212** ground **240** is also indicated. In particular, a continuity bus **206** electrically interconnects the coaxial cable's exposed outer conductor **224** with the electrically conductive fastener **202** of the male connector.

In various embodiments, at least portion(s) of the continuity bus penetrate the connector body. For example, in various embodiments at least portion(s) of the continuity bus are immovably or slidably embedded in a wall forming the connector body as shown by a continuity bus insulated portion **208**.

The ground path to the female connector ground **212** is completed **246** when the male connector fastener **202** engages a female port such as the female connector ground **240**. Similar to the depiction of FIG. **1**A, this ground path interconnects a ground at a male connector (e.g. male connector ground **108**) with a ground at the female connector (e.g. female connector ground **118**). And, similar to Path 3 of FIG. **1**D, a ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and a female port ground via a continuity bus and a fastener is described.

FIG. **3**A shows a connector that incorporates a continuity bus **300**A. Notably, here and elsewhere in applicant's disclosure, exemplary connectors of particular design are used to illustrate making and using the present invention and the continuity bus of the present invention. Such descriptions are not to be used to limit the applicability of the inventive ideas expressed herein. Rather, they should be understood to teach inventive concepts applicable to various connectors through use of the selected example(s).

The exemplary connector of FIG. **3**A includes a post **120**, a suitable fastener such as a nut engaging the post **130** and a body **140**. These parts are coaxially arranged with the post extending between and into each of the fastener and the body. A coaxial cable annular receiving space **308** is formed between the body and the post such that when the prepared end of a coaxial cable is inserted into the connector body, the cable outer conductor **108** is received in this space.

FIG. **3**B shows an enlarged portion of the connector of FIG. **3**B **300**B. The enlarged portion **302** shows the fastener **130** to post **120** rotatable engagement and a body **140** to post attachment. In various embodiments, the fastener is coupled to the post via a post flange **313** that interengages an inwardly directed fastener rim **315**. And, in various embodiments a body neck **309** surrounds and attaches to the post near the post flange.

FIG. **3**C shows an enlarged view of the body of the connector of FIG. **3**A **300**C including a continuity bus **400**A. As shown here, the continuity bus passes through a body wall or as shown through a portion of a cylindrical body wall **331** of the body **140**. A portion of the continuity bus is fixedly embedded in the body wall. Notably, in some other embodiments discussed below, a continuity bus portion is movably embedded in a body wall.

Each of FIGS. **3**A-**3**C shows the continuity bus **400**A. Shown best in FIG. **3**C, the continuity bus is located in the body wall **331** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **402** is exposed, at least in part, near one end of the bus and a continuity bus outer conductor contact **410** is exposed, at least in part, near an opposite end of the bus.

In various embodiments, the fastener contact **402** protrudes from a neck end of the body **322** and in some embodiments is turned away from the connector centerline x-x (forming an "L" like shape as shown). And, in some embodiments, the continuity bus outer conductor contact **410** protrudes near a neck internal face **323** into the outer conductor receiver annulus **308** such that a surface of the outer conductor contact **411** faces the connector centerline.

When a body **140** with an integral continuity bus **400**A is assembled in a connector, embodiments of the present invention provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener and the fastener contact. In the present example, a spring-like action of the fastener contact maintains following contact between the fastener and the continuity bus.

In particular, assembly of the connector presses the fastener contact against the fastener back face **306** such that the fastener contact is resiliently moved toward the body. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **317** between the post flange **313** and the fastener rim **315**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **315** against the post flange **313** such that actions that would open the gap **317** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIGS. **4**A-D show a first group of continuity bus embodiments **400**A-D. In FIG. **4**A, a continuity bus **400**A includes a bus front projection **404**, a rear projection **408** and a bus

midsection **406** interconnecting the front and rear projections. The bus front projection includes the fastener contact **402** while the bus rear projection includes the outer conductor contact **410**.

As shown in the embodiment above, the bus front projection **404** extends away from the body **140** and toward the fastener **130** and the fastener contact **402** is an end portion of the front bus projection. As shown in the embodiment above, the bus rear projection **408** extends within the body and the outer conductor contact **410** is an inwardly directed face of the bus rear projection. And, as shown in the embodiment above, the bus midsection **406** is embedded, at least in part, in the connector body periphery, for example in the connector body neck **309**.

Continuity bus embodiments include busses formed from elongated wires, pins, and other suitable structures whether they have regular or irregular cross-sections. Continuity bus embodiments also include embodiments utilizing plural continuity bus parts such as use of multiple independent continuity bus pins. Other continuity bus embodiments include partial or complete figures of revolution such as circular sections. Yet other continuity bus embodiments combine bus portions that are figures of revolution, circular cross section for example, with portions that are not figures of revolution, fingers for example.

FIG. **4**B shows an elongated continuity bus in a form such as a wire or a pin **400**B. As above, the bus has front and rear projections **404**, **408** interconnected by a bus midsection **406**. Bus terminations are a front contact **402** and an outer conductor contact **410**.

FIG. **4**C shows a continuity bus including a generally circular section **400**C. As shown, the generally circular section **440** forms the bus rear projection **408** and an inside surface of the circular section forms the outer conductor contact **410**. Two fingers **450** extend from the circular section. Each finger includes at least a part of a bus midsection **406** and a bus front projection **404** terminating in a fastener contact **402**.

FIG. **4**D shows another continuity bus including a generally circular section **400**D. As shown, the generally circular section **440** forms the bus rear projection **408** and an inside surface of the circular section forms the outer conductor contact **410**. Here, four fingers **450** extend from the circular section. Each finger includes a bus midsection **406** and a bus front projection **404** terminating in a fastener contact **402**. Although there is generally a preference for a symmetrical arrangement of multiple fingers about a circular periphery, skilled artisans will recognize suitable arrangements provide one or more fingers.

As suggested by the above, various embodiments provide a fastener contact for rubbing against a portion of the fastener **130**. In FIGS. **3**A-C, embodiments provide a turned end of the continuity bus for rubbing against what is shown as a generally flat fastener back face **306**. Other embodiments provide for alternative engagements between the fastener and the continuity bus. For example, the fastener may include a groove or protuberance for receiving or seating a mating continuity bus fastener contact.

FIGS. **5**A-D show embodiments of a continuity bus connector including fastener grooves **500**A-**500**D. FIG. **5**A shows a first continuity bus connector including a fastener groove **500**A. The connector includes a post **520** and a fastener **530** adjacent to a body **540** having a body peripheral wall **531**.

An enlarged connector portion **501** shows the fastener **530** to post **520** rotatable engagement and the body **540** to post attachment. In various embodiments, the fastener is coupled to the post via a post flange **513** that interengages an inwardly directed fastener rim **515**. And, in various embodiments a body neck **509** surrounds and attaches to the post near the post flange.

The continuity bus **550** is located in the body wall **531** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **502** is exposed. As shown, the fastener contact is a portion of a front bus projection that is bent away from the connector centerline x-x to form a two segment arrow shaped fastener contact that is pointed into a fastener groove **516** encircling a back face **506** of the fastener (See e.g. FIGS. **4**A-D). The fastener groove is generally "v" shaped and is configured to receive the arrow shaped fastener contact. In some embodiments, the fastener groove has a floor **519** about parallel to the connector centerline and a sloped ceiling **514** that is angled away from the connector centerline.

When the connector of FIG. **5**A is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener contact and the fastener groove wall(s) **519**, **514**. In some embodiments, spring-like action of the fastener contact **502** maintains following contact between the fastener contact and the groove. In particular, assembly of the connector presses the fastener contact against a fastener groove wall(s), for example against the groove floor **519** and/or the groove ceiling **514**. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **517** between the post flange **513** and the fastener rim **515**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **515** against the post flange **513** such that actions that would open the gap **517** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

In an alternative continuity bus fastener contact and bus front projection, fastener contact travel is extended. In particular, a collapsible portion **594** is incorporated in the fastener contact and bus front projection **592**.

FIG. **5**B shows a second continuity bus connector including a fastener groove **500**B. The connector includes a post **520**, a fastener **530** adjacent to a body **540** with a body peripheral wall **531**, and is similar to the connector of FIG. **5**A.

An enlarged connector portion **5011** shows the continuity bus of this connector **5501** is located in the body wall **531** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **5021** is exposed. As shown, the fastener contact is a portion of a front bus projection that is bent away from the connector centerline x-x to form a three segment arrow shaped fastener contact. The fastener contact is pointed into a fastener groove **516** encircling a back face **506** of the fastener (See e.g. FIGS. **4**A-D). The fastener groove is generally "v" shaped and includes a floor **519** about parallel to the connector centerline and a sloped ceiling **514** that is angled away from the connector centerline.

When the connector of FIG. **5**B is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener contact **5021** and the fastener groove **516**. In particular, assembly of the connector causes contact between the fastener groove ceiling **514** and a segment **523** of the fastener contact **5021** that is parallel to the ceiling. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **517** between the post flange **513** and the fastener rim **515**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **515** against the post flange **513** such that actions that would open the gap **517** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIG. **5**C shows a third continuity bus connector including a fastener groove **500**C. The connector includes a post **520**, a fastener **530** adjacent to a body **540** with a body peripheral wall **531**, and is similar to the connector of FIG. **5**A.

An enlarged connector portion **5012** shows the continuity bus of this connector **5502** is located in the body wall **531** such

that a continuity bus fastener contact **5022** is exposed. As shown, the fastener contact is a portion of a front bus projection that is bent less than ninety degrees away from the connector centerline x-x to form a sloped wiper fastener contact. The fastener contact is inserted into a fastener groove **5162** encircling a back face **506** of the fastener (See e.g. FIGS. **4**A-D). The fastener groove is generally "v" shaped and includes a floor **5192** sloped toward the connector centerline and a ceiling **5141** that is about parallel to the connector centerline.

When the connector of FIG. **5**C is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener contact **5022** and the fastener groove **5162**. In particular, assembly of the connector causes contact between the fastener groove floor **5192** and a fastener contact **5022**. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **517** between the post flange **513** and the fastener rim **515**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **515** against the post flange **513** such that actions that would open the gap **517** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIG. **5**D shows a fourth continuity bus connector including a fastener groove **500**D. The connector includes a post **520**, a fastener **530** adjacent to a body **540** with a body peripheral wall **531**, and is similar to the connector of FIG. **5**A.

An enlarged connector portion **5013** shows the continuity bus of this connector **5503** is located in the body wall **531** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **5023** is exposed. As shown, the fastener contact is a portion of a front bus projection that is bent away from the connector centerline x-x to form a three segment arrow shaped fastener contact with three vertices (**549** typical). The fastener contact is pointed into a fastener groove **5163** encircling a back face **506** of the fastener (See e.g. FIGS. **4**A-D). The fastener groove is generally semi-cylindrically shaped and includes an interior groove wall **5193** defining a groove mouth **539**. In various embodiments, the groove mouth is dimensioned such that the fastener contact is compressed when entering through the groove mouth and expanded after entry into the groove.

When the connector of FIG. **5**D is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener contact **5023** and the fastener groove **5163**. In particular, assembly of the connector causes contact between the fastener groove wall **5193** and vertices of the fastener contact **549** when the fastener contact is pushed through the groove mouth **539** and expands to contact the groove wall. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **517** between the post flange **513** and the fastener rim **515**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **515** against the post flange **513** such that actions that would open the gap **517** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

As seen above, FIGS. **5**A-D and the accompanying text describe various embodiments of the fastener and fastener contact configuration that include deformed end portions of the bus front projection (See also e.g. FIG. **4**A). FIGS. **6**A-**6**D describe embodiments of the fastener and fastener contact configuration that include coil spring end portions of the front bus projection.

FIG. **6**A shows a first continuity bus connector including a coil spring **600**A. The connector includes a post **620** and a fastener **630** adjacent to a body **640** having a body peripheral wall **631**.

An enlarged connector portion **601** shows the fastener **630** to post **620** rotatable engagement and the body **640** to post attachment. In various embodiments, the fastener is coupled to the post via a post flange **613** that interengages an inwardly directed fastener rim **615**. And, in various embodiments a body neck **609** surrounds and attaches to the post near the post flange.

The continuity bus **650** is located in the body wall **631** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **602** is exposed. As shown, the fastener contact is made from a front bus projection that is coiled to form a coil spring.

When the connector of FIG. **6**A is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the coil spring fastener contact and a back face **606** of the fastener **630**. In particular, assembly of the connector presses the fastener contact against a fastener back face. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **617** between the post flange **613** and the fastener rim **615**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **615** against the post flange **613** such that actions that would open the gap **617** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIG. **6**B shows a continuity bus connector with a coil spring **600**B. The connector includes a post **620**, a fastener **630** adjacent to a body **640** with a body peripheral wall **631**, and is similar to the connector of FIG. **6**A.

An enlarged connector portion **6011** shows a multipart continuity bus **6501** of this connector is located in the body wall **631** such that a continuity bus fastener contact **6021** is exposed. The fastener contact is in the form of a coil spring interconnected **663** (as by a disc shaped metal pusher plate or another continuity maintaining connection) with a mid-section **661** of the continuity bus.

In an embodiment (as shown), the coil spring fastener contact **6021** is inserted in a mouth **665** of a bore **659** of the body wall **631**. Notably, various embodiments provide a plurality of bores with coil spring fastener contacts attached to one or more continuity bus mid sections. In some embodiments, the bore **659** is lined with a sleeve **669**. And in some embodiments the sleeve is a metallic sleeve that may be interconnected with the bus mid-section **661**.

When the connector of FIG. **6**B is assembled, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the coil spring fastener contact and a back face **606** of the fastener **630**. In particular, assembly of the connector presses the fastener contact against a fastener back face. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **617** between the post flange **613** and the fastener rim **615**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **615** against the post flange **613** such that actions that would open the gap **617** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIG. **6**C shows a first alternative of the enlarged connector portion of FIG. **6**B **600**C. In particular, the coil spring is used to bias an electrically conductive rider or brush **671** against the fastener **630**. As shown, the rider has a contacting face **673** at one end for contacting the fasteners. At another end, the rider has a shank **675** for insertion in the coil spring.

In a connector similar to the connector of FIG. **6**B, the bore(s) **659** are replaced by a continuous circular groove for receiving a spring loaded ring. See for example FIG. **6**D showing another coil spring connector **600**D, Here, a circular groove **665** is located in a body **640** front face. The circular grove provides an annular cavity or bore **6591** for receiving a post circling coil spring **681**, the spring having an outer diameter similar to a body outer diameter. In an embodiment (not shown), the spring bears on a back face of the fastener **686**. In another embodiment, a ring protruding from the groove **673** is located between the spring and the fastener back face such that the ring is urged against the back face of the fastener by the spring. In various embodiments, the post circling coil spring **681** and/or the ring **673** provide a fastener contact similar in function to those discussed above. In various

embodiments, the spring is integral with the remainder of the continuity bus **6501**. And, in various embodiments the spring is not integral with, but is in electrical contact with, the remainder of the continuity bus **6501**.

FIGS. **5**A-D and FIGS. **6**A-D and the accompanying text describe various embodiments of the fastener and fastener contact configuration. Just as these embodiments vary the fastener contact configuration, so to do the embodiments which follow vary the configuration of the outer conductor contact of the continuity bus. As skilled artisans will understand, these and other embodiments disclosed provide a diverse collection of "mix and match" embodiments. For example, a selected fastener and fastener contact embodiment might be matched with a selected outer conductor contact embodiment to produce a particular continuity bus variant.

FIG. **7**A shows a first continuity bus connector including an outer conductor coil contact **700**A. The connector includes a post **720** and a fastener **730** adjacent to a body **740** having a body peripheral wall **731**. In various embodiments, the fastener is coupled to the post via a post flange **713** that interengages an inwardly directed fastener rim **715**. And, in various embodiments a body neck **709** surrounds and attaches to the post near the post flange.

The continuity bus **750** is located in the body wall **731** such that a continuity bus coaxial cable outer conductor contact **780** is exposed. The outer conductor contact is in the form of a coil contact inserted in an annular chamber formed between the post and the body **710**.

Here, the continuity bus includes a mid-section and fastener contact **770** that adjoins the outer conductor coil. Preferred embodiments of this continuity bus **750** are made from a continuous conductor such as a conductive wire or another member suited to this application.

FIG. **7**B shows another continuity bus connector including an outer conductor coil contact **700**B. The connector includes a post **720** and a fastener **730** adjacent to a body **740** having a body peripheral wall **731** and is similar to the connector of FIG. **7**A above.

The continuity bus **790** is located in the body wall **731** such that a continuity bus coaxial cable outer conductor contact **791** is exposed at one end and a fastener contact **789** is exposed at an opposed end. The outer conductor contact is in the form of a coil contact inserted in an annular chamber formed between the post and the body **710**. And, the fastener contact is in the form of a coil projecting from the body and contacting a back face **706** of the fastener.

Preferred embodiments of this continuity bus **790** are made from a continuous conductor such as a conductive wire or another member suited to this application.

Yet other embodiments of the present invention utilize movable continuity busses wherein the continuity bus is pushed during insertion of a coaxial cable or during advancement of a connector rear shell.

FIG. **8**A shows a continuity bus connector including a continuity bus pushed by the coaxial cable **800**A. The connector includes a post **820** and a fastener **830** adjacent to a body **840** having a body peripheral wall **831**.

An enlarged connector portion **801** shows the fastener **830** to post **820** rotatable engagement and the body **840** to post attachment. In various embodiments, the fastener is coupled to the post via a post flange **813** that interengages an inwardly directed fastener rim **815**. And, in various embodiments a body neck **809** surrounds and attaches to the post near the post flange.

The continuity bus **850** is located in the body wall **831** with a continuity bus fastener contact **802** is exposed at one end and a coaxial cable outer conductor contact **849** exposed at an opposed end.

While a portion of the continuity bus **850** is embedded in a void **859** in the body wall **831**, the continuity bus is operable to move about parallel to the connector longitudinal axis in response to force exerted on the bus outer conductor contact **849** by the coaxial cable. Such a force pushes the continuity bus until the fastener contact **802** presses against a back face **806** of the fastener **830**. As discussed above, the continuity bus is made with a suitable electrically conductive material.

When the connector of FIG. **8**A is assembled and the coaxial cable is fully inserted, embodiments provide for contact and/or following contact between the fastener contact **802** and the fastener **830**. In some embodiments, spring like action of the coaxial cable or the continuity bus maintains following contact between the fastener and the fastener contact. This action tends to resist formation of a gap **817** between the post flange **813** and the fastener rim **815**. In various embodiments, the fastener contact acts to press the fastener rim **815** against the post flange **813** such that actions that would open the gap **817** are resisted by resilient operation of the fastener contact.

FIG. **8**B shows a continuity bus connector including a continuity bus pushed indirectly by a connector end cap **800**B. Similar to the connector of FIG. **8**A, this connector includes a post **820** and a fastener **830** adjacent to a body **840** having a body peripheral wall **831**.

A deformable ring **160** within a connector outer sleeve **150** serves to fix the cable to the connector. Fixation occurs when the sleeve is advanced onto the body, an operation forcing the ring into the annular region between the body and the post and pressing the coaxial cable jacket and outer conductor toward the post.

The continuity bus **8501** is located in the body wall **831** with a continuity bus fastener contact **8021** exposed at one end and a coaxial cable outer conductor contact **8491** exposed at an opposed end. It is noted that the length of the continuity bus is such that advancement of the rear shell and ring will cause the ring to push the continuity bus forward in a manner similar to that described in connection with FIG. **8**A above.

As persons of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate, embodiments of the continuity bus of the present invention provide an electrical ground path between a coaxial cable outer conductor and an electrically conducting fastener of the connector such that the connector ground circuit tends to be maintained during events such as movement of the connector fastener relative to the connector body and failure to properly tighten the connector fastener to a female port.

While various embodiments of the present invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes in the form and details can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. As such, the breadth and scope of the present invention should not be limited by the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A continuity bus male connector to electrically connect a cable having an inner conductor and an outer conductor with a female connector having an inner conductor and an outer conductor, the continuity bus male connector comprising:

an electrically conductive fastener;

a non-electrically conductive body;

a continuity ground bus electrically connected to the cable outer conductor and to the fastener;

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface; and,

the bus at least partially held in place by a cylindrical wall of the body.

2. A continuity bus male connector comprising:

a fastener having a front end and a rear end, the front end configured to mate with a female connector;

a body having a front end, a rear end, a neck, and a cavity between the front and rear ends;

a continuity around bus having a bus front projection, a bus midsection, and a bus rear section;

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface; and,

the bus rear section positioned in the body cavity for making electrical contact with an outer conductor of a coaxial cable when the cable is inserted into the connector.

3. The connector of claim **2** wherein:

the bus front section is positioned between the body front end and the nut rear end for electrically connecting the rear end of the nut;

the bus midsection passes through the body neck between the body cavity and the body front end; and,

the continuity bus electrically connects the outer conductor of the coaxial cable to the nut.

4. A coaxial cable connector comprising:

a tubular body defining a cylindrical wall made from an insulating material;

the tubular body for receiving a prepared end of a coaxial cable with a central signal conductor spaced apart from a exposed ground conductor;

a fastener incorporating an electrical conducting material, the fastener rotatably coupled to the tubular body;

an elongated continuity ground bus having a first contact portion operable to electrically contact the exposed ground conductor and a second contact portion operable to rub the rotatable fastener;

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface; and,

at least a portion of the continuity bus embedded in the wall of the tubular body.

5. The coaxial cable connector of claim **4** wherein the at least a portion of the continuity bus embedded in the wall of the tubular body is slidably embedded.

6. The coaxial cable connector of claim **4** wherein electrical contact between the fastener and the continuity bus second contact portion is maintained if the fastener is moved away from the body and wherein electrical contact between the fastener and the continuity bus second contact portion is maintained if the fastener is moved toward the body.

7. A coaxial cable connector comprising:

a cylindrical insulative body;

an electrically conductive fastener rotatably coupled with the body;

a body cavity for receiving an end of a coaxial cable;

a around bus having first and second ends, the bus extending from the body cavity to the fastener; and,

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface; and,

wherein a part of the bus that is intermediate between the bus ends is insulated by the body.

8. The coaxial cable connector of claim **7** further comprising:

a bus to fastener contact;

wherein the contact persists when the fastener is moved away from the body; and,

wherein the contact persists when the fastener is moved toward the body.

9. A male F type coaxial cable connector for electrically connecting a cable having an inner conductor encircled by an outermost conductor, the connector comprising:

an electrically conductive fastener;

a non-electrically conductive body;

a continuity around bus for electrically bridging between an outermost surface of the cable outermost conductor and the fastener; and

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface;

wherein the continuity bus is at least partially embedded in a body wall.

10. The coaxial cable connector of claim **9** wherein the partially embedded continuity bus is movably embedded.

11. The connector of claim **9** wherein a part of the continuity bus substantially encircles the outermost conductor.

12. A male F-type coaxial connector for terminating a coaxial cable having a center conductor and a radially spaced outermost conductor:

a rotatable fastener having a front end and a rear end, the front end configured to mate with a female connector;

a body having a front end, a rear end, and a neck encircling a first cavity between the front and the rear ends;

a continuity around bus having a bus front section that projects from a body front surface, a bus midsection, and a bus rear section;

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface;

the bus rear section extending into a second body cavity; and,

the bus rear section for making electrical contact with an outermost coaxial cable conductor located between the bus rear section and the center conductor.

13. The connector of claim **12** wherein:

the bus front section extends from a body front end surface and contacts a nut rear end;

the bus midsection passes through the body neck between the body cavity and the body front end surface; and,

the continuity bus electrically connects the outer conductor of the coaxial cable to the nut.

14. A coaxial cable connector comprising:

a conductive fastener rotatably coupled to an insulative tubular body via a central post;

a ground bus having a bus front section that extends across a peripheral gap between the fastener and the body;

the bus extending through the body from a body external surface to a body internal surface; and,

the bus front section extends from an end face of the tubular body and resists gap reductions.

15. The coaxial cable connector of claim **14** further comprising a bus intermediate section encased in the tubular body.

16. The coaxial cable connector of claim **15** further comprising a bus end section enclosed in a tubular body cavity for receiving a prepared end of a coaxial cable.

17. The coaxial cable connector of claim **16** further comprising a bus front section electrical contact for rubbing against the rotatable fastener.

18. The coaxial cable connector of claim **17** wherein the bus front section is formed from a resilient metal.

19. The coaxial cable connector of claim **14** further comprising a bus rear section with a surface facing a connector central longitudinal axis wherein the surface is for contacting an exterior of the outermost conductor of the coaxial cable.

20. The coaxial cable connector of claim **19** further comprising a body neck passageway through which the bus passes.

21. The coaxial cable connector of claim **19** wherein electrical continuity along a connector ground path is improved by operation of the bus.

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